

Orange County Statistical Abstract

Spring 2000

California Trade & Commerce Agency

Orange County



Basic Facts

- Orange County is the third largest county in the State of California in terms of population.
- The County of Orange comprises 947.9 square miles and 2,659,300 people in January, 1998.
- Technology transfer opportunities with the world's largest research university.
- Highly educated, technologically superior workforce.
- Envious standard of living leading to a high local disposable income.
- Median family income is \$61,812 and Median Housing Costs are \$253,969.
- Positioned as a major U.S. transportation center.
- Orange County has 42 miles of beaches, over 125 miles of bikeways and over 200 miles of hiking trails.

The Orange County region is located on the Pacific coastline between Los Angeles and San Diego counties, within 30 miles of the major Pacific Coast air and water ports. It is considered the heart of Southern California's Technology Coast. Aviation, aerospace, and manufacturing giants coexist with computer companies and biotechnology firms. It is part of the largest manufacturing areas of the United States. Orange County is the computer memory capital of the world and the birthplace of the medical device industry. Lincoln-Mercury recently relocated its headquarters from Michigan to Orange County.

It offers the most "Californian" of California beaches: Huntington, Newport and Laguna. It is home to many things -- the bohemian spirit that founded art colonies along the shores; an intricate labyrinth of industrial and residential communities; and the child-like whimsy that gave birth to the first (and arguably, best) theme park in the world, Disneyland.

Tech Coast

The "Tech Coast", a dynamic and powerful geographic entity, occupies the broad coastal plain from Santa Barbara to San Diego. This area boasts the greatest concentration of technology innovation and economic power in the world. Orange County's High-tech industry alone accounts for approximately 24% of Orange County's total employment, totaling 7,765 firms and 262,329 jobs. This area has emerged as the world's leading technology mecca. A strong network of support infrastructure and a wealth of intelligence, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit, give this region an advantage creating leading-edge technology.

Economy

If Orange County were an independent country, its economy would place it among the top 35 in the world — an economy larger than Greece, the Philippines, or New Zealand. Its Gross County Product exceeds \$100 billion; 10 percent of California's Gross State Product. All within an area of 948 square miles (2,455 km sq) (0.5 percent of California) and a population of 2.6 million (8 percent of California). The median income of \$61,812 is indicative of the county's strength regarding leading-edge types of businesses and correspondingly high quality of its workforce.

This ideal Pacific Rim location is in close proximity to Los Angeles and Long Beach, two of the nation's major ports where exports are growing. Major trade clients with significant two-way trade value include: Japan, (the area's largest trading partner), Taiwan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands, England, Switzerland, Italy, France, Canada, and Mexico.

Prominent Industry Clusters

- **Aviation, Aerospace, and Manufacturing Giants**

High Technology leads the manufacturing sector. Business diversity is the key to Orange County's economic strength. It ranks among the top eight counties nationwide in a variety of manufacturing industries. Central to its business activity has been the foundation industries of aviation and aerospace, led by such companies as Rockwell, Hughes, and McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing). These giant corporations stimulated the development of numerous independent companies and attracted others that helped form the industrial infrastructure of today.

- **Electronics and Computers**

There are approximately 2200 hardware and electronics companies, which employ over 70,000 Orange County residents. Many of these companies became part of the county's burgeoning electronics and computer industries: Orange County has the second largest concentration of computer companies in California, it is the computer memory capital of the world, and it is in the center of the greatest concentration of computer programmers in California. Additionally, 25 percent of all multimedia firms in the United States are within a 30-mile (48 km) radius.

- **BioMedical**

Orange County is a forerunner in the fast-growing biotechnology and biomedical industries. It is known as the birthplace of the medical device industry and has significant emerging clusters in pharmaceuticals and biotechnology. The Irvine campus of the University of California is one of the world's leading research universities and works closely with the business community to transfer technology to commercial uses.

- **Tourism**

Tourism is a major contributor to the county's economy with Disneyland in Anaheim, and Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Vista forming a strong entertainment cluster.

- **Infrastructure**

Orange County's supporting infrastructure is equally well developed; over 200 million square feet (18 million square meters) of industrial and research/development space and 56 million square feet (5 million square meters) of office space. And, most critical to the support of these technologies are the numerous world-class private and public research facilities in and immediately around Orange County.

#1 Place to Live in the Nation

With a strong correlation between the desirability of location for business as well as for living, it is important to note that *Places Rated Almanac*, which ranked 351 North American metropolitan areas on nine variables, ranked Orange County as the *#1 place to live in the nation*. That could explain why over 100 Lincoln-Mercury employees agreed to make the move to Orange County as part of the company's headquarters relocation.

Industry Trends and Outlook, 2002

Orange County is expected to continue experiencing strong employment growth through 2002 as the region's economy continues to improve and diversify. The services industry division is expected to add the greatest number of jobs and experience the highest rate of expansion, followed by the trade and manufacturing divisions.

The services industry will experience the largest gains in the business, health and other services sector. Business services employment will expand as a result of growth in personnel supply and temporary help services, and increased demand for computer programming, and computer related services.

The trade sector will experience the second highest employment growth. The wholesale trade sector will expand as the suppliers of goods and services expand to support the production and distribution of local manufacturing employers. The retail trade industry is expected to increase as a result of population growth and overall job creation in other industries.

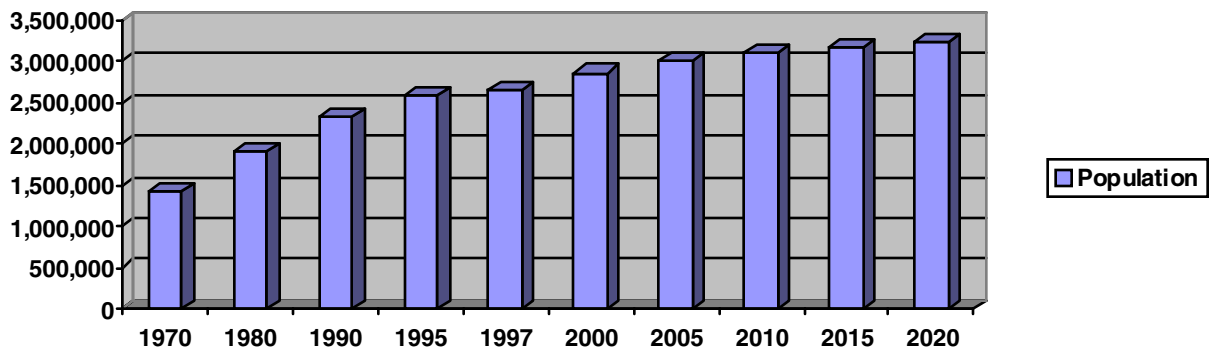
Manufacturing is expected to produce a significant number of new jobs with most of these in the durable goods sector in the high-technology segments of electronics, communications, aircraft and parts, and computer and office equipment. Other significant gains are anticipated in primary and fabricated metals, other instruments and related devices, industrial machinery, lumber and wood products and miscellaneous manufacturing.

Other sectors with increase in employment are government employment and transportation, communications and public utilities industries.

City / County Population Estimates
Orange County Total Population: 2,775,600

City	Jan. 1, 1999		
Anaheim	306,300		
Brea	36,400	Los Alamitos	12,050
Buena Park	75,900	Mission Viejo	96,300
Costa Mesa	105,600	Newport Beach	74,000
Cypress	48,500	Orange	127,600
Dana Point	37,350	Placentia	49,150
Fountain	56,400	San Clemente	49,250
Valley			
Fullerton	126,800	San Juan	32,100
		Capistrano	
Garden Grove	156,500	Santa Ana	315,000
Huntington	196,700	Seal Beach	27,200
Beach			
Irvine	136,600	Stanton	33,850
Laguna Beach	24,950	Tustin	66,800
Laguna Hills	30,750	Villa Park	6,625
Laguna Niguel	59,200	Westminster	86,200
La Habra	55,800	Yorba Linda	61,800
Lake Forest	59,400	Unincorporated	208,200

Population Growth Rates and Forecast for Orange County



Education

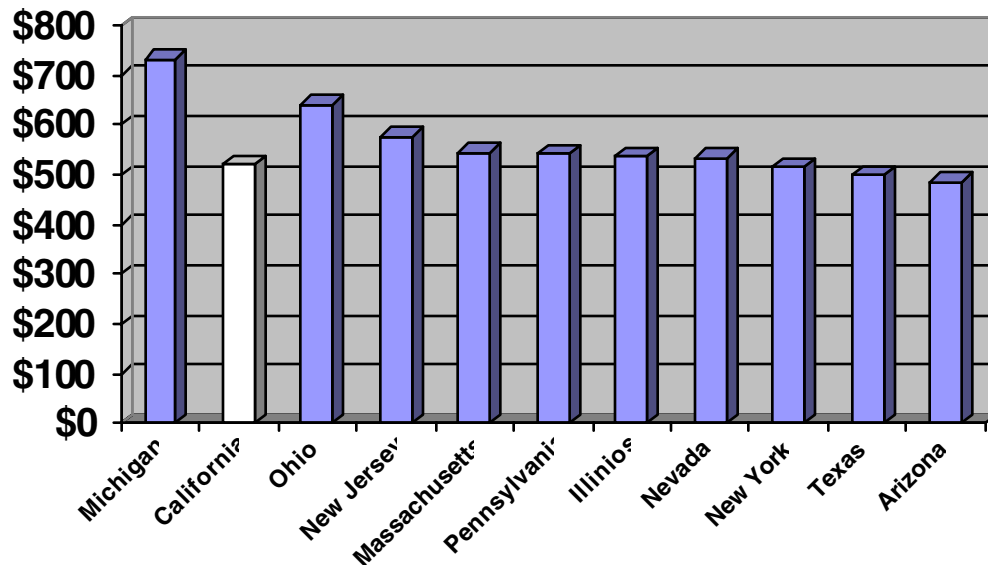
College & University Enrollment

UC Irvine	16,200
CSU Fullerton	25,300
Community Colleges	203,278
Private Colleges	3,278
Total	248,056

Top 10 Employers in Orange County

Employer	Orange County Employees
	Full & Part Time
Walt Disney Co.	12,633
Boeing Co.	11,000
Tenet Healthcare Corp.	10,500
American Stores Co.	7,900
St. Joseph Health System	6,535
Bank America Corp.	5,300
Tricon Global Restaurants Inc.	4,820
Ralphs Grocery Co.	4,688
Pacific Telesis Corp.	4,650
Dayton Hudson Corp.	4,145

Average Weekly Manufacturing Wages for Major Industrial States



Business Advantages

Financial Incentives offered to assist businesses locating to Orange County are:

- Tax-exempt and taxable Industrial Development Bonds.
- Pollution Control and Solid Waste Financing Program.
- California Strategic Technology Program.
- Research and Development tax credits.
- Foreign Trade Zones.
- Health Insurance Plan of California.
- California Employment Training Panel.
- Defensive Conversion Matching Grant Program.
- Recycling Market Development Zones.
- California Enterprise Zone Program.

Taxes

Primary California State Taxes on a Corporation Within Orange County

Type	Base or Measure	Rate
Corporate Income	Net Income	8.84%
Sales & Use	Receipts from sales or lease of taxable items	7.75%
Unemployment Insurance	On first \$7,000 of employees wages	3%-5.4%
Employment Training	On first \$7,000 of employees wages	.1%

